

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-493

Magi No. 2104935204

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Morling's Chanceand/or common Paul Rust Residence

2. Location

street & number Bloomfield Road not for publicationcity, town Easton X vicinity ofcongressional district 1st Districtstate Marylandcounty Talbot County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> X </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> X </u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Ruststreet & number Route 5, Box 499

telephone no.:

city, town Bloomfield,state and zip code Maryland 21601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse

liber

street & number Washington Street

folio

city, town Eastonstate Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

 federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Morling's Chance is located at the south end of Bloomfield Road and on the north bank of Shipshead Creek, a tributary of the Tred Avon River, approximately 3 miles west of Easton.

The log house at Morling's Chance is a small one room plan building that has been reincorporated into a larger "mail order" dwelling house built about 1922.

The house measures 13½ feet deep and 15½ feet long, and presumably originally had a pitched gable roof. The house is oriented on an east-west axis with the south facade facing the water. A brick exterior chimney on the west gable wall serves a single fireplace on the first floor.

The house is constructed of hewn and pit sawn log planks joined at the corners with dovetail notching. The log walls are stabilized with wood pins driven vertically into the top and bottom faces of adjoining logs. The west gable wall was evidently also reinforced with intermediate posts flanking the chimney opening, as suggested by a series of wood pegs in the face of each log. The log walls were chinked with pieces of riven stock and the spaces between the logs were covered originally (or at an early date) by riven clapboards secured with wrought nails. The exterior walls show traces of whitewash, which also may be seen on the one early clapboard that has survived. In the 19th century the house was sheathed with heavy vertical exterior siding nailed with machine-made nails and covered with whitewash. This siding was later covered by several successive layers of weather-board siding.

Today, the log walls, the gable chimney, and the framing and flooring for the loft survive; while the first story flooring and the entire roof are gone. The lower logs on at least two walls appear to be early replacements, as the upper logs are oak, while the lower logs are pine. On the north facade wall the lower logs also have a distinctively different appearance due in part to the pattern of saw strokes.

When the house was recently renovated and the walls exposed, it became apparent that the fenestration pattern had undergone several changes. Before the renovation,

7.1 DESCRIPTION

there were single windows in the center of the north and south facades, an exterior door to the north of the gable chimney, and an interior door in the center of the east gable wall, opening into the 20th century kitchen. When the log walls were exposed, it became clear that the window in the north facade replaced an original door, and it seems likely that the south window was also originally a door.

The interior consists of a single room with an exposed hewn joist ceiling covered with numerous coats of whitewash. The ghost of a steep ladder-stair is visible in the southwest corner of the room, and the ghost of a corner cupboard may be seen on the ceiling in the northeast corner.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This small log house is located on a tract of land known as Morling's Chance, which can be traced back at least as early as 1740, when Jacob Morling conveyed the property to Samuel Chamberlaine. Jacob is described as the "heir apparent" of Jacob Morling, "who left Talbott County about the year One Thousand seven hundred and Twenty".

The house is typical of a small dwelling house or detached kitchen of the 18th or early 19th century, and if used as a dwelling may have been occupied by a tenant farmer, overseer, indentured servant or slave. Although the house has been extensively altered, the dovetailed log walls, brick exterior chimney, exposed joist ceiling and flooring survive as well as evidence of riven clapboard siding, a steep ladder-stair, and a corner cupboard. Dating evidence is extremely limited but wrought nails used to secure the clapboard siding suggest a date no later than 1815, and it seems likely that the building dates to the last quarter of the 18th century or the first decade of the 19th century.

The early log house has been incorporated into the wing of a small frame house constructed in 1922. According to the present owner, this 20th century dwelling was a mail order house, but the company is not known.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout V

organization Maryland Historical Trust date

street & number 21 State Circle telephone 269-2438

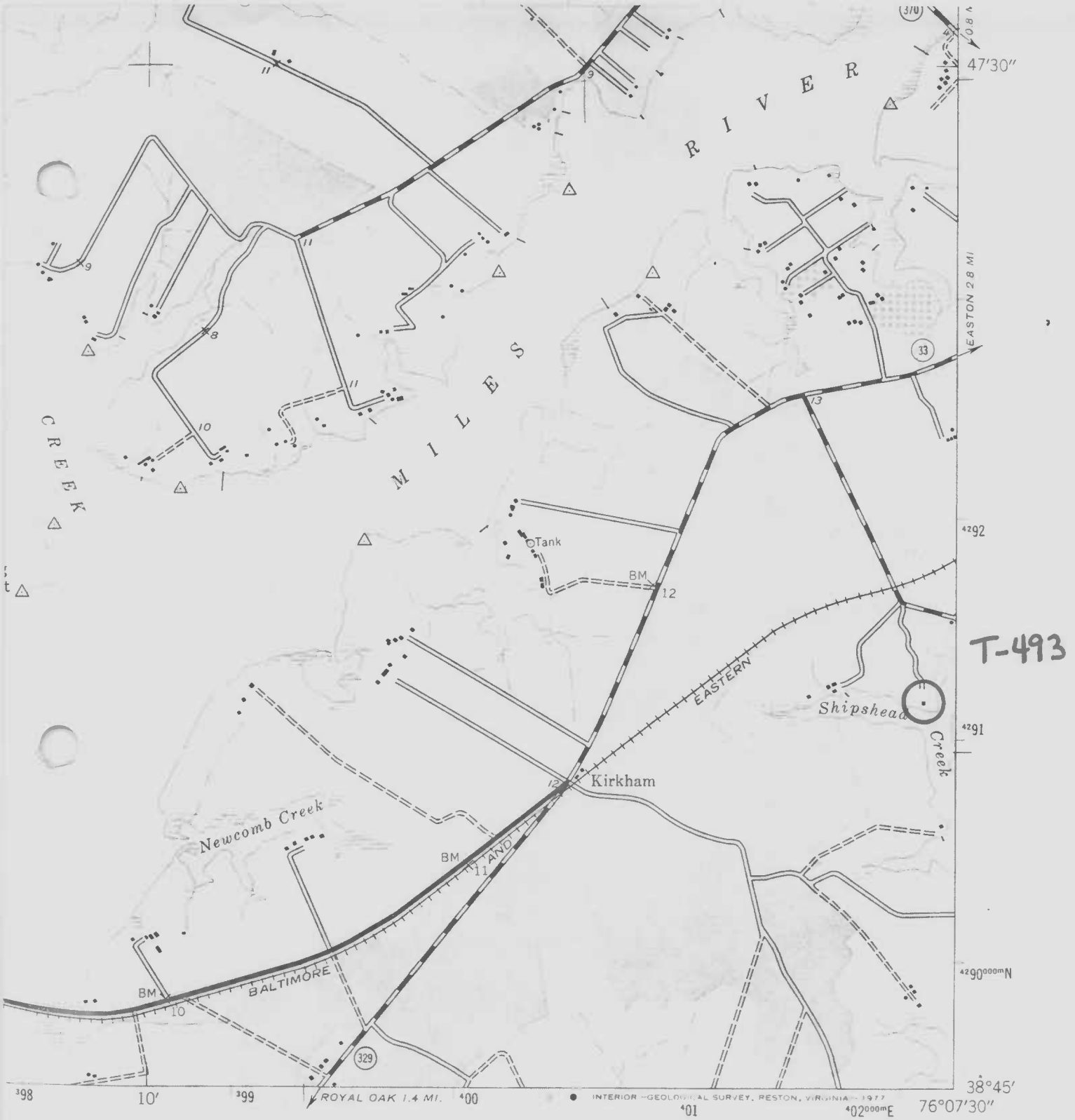
city or town Annapolis state Maryland

Field Notebook MD-9; Recorded September 14, 1983

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



T-493 Morling's Chance
Bloomfield, Maryland
St. Michaels U.S.G.S. Quad

ST. MICHAELS, MD.

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